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PENN STATE VS SYRACUSE, 7 P.M. TOMORROW — ESPN

NOTRE DAME VS MIAMI, 2:30 P.M. TOMORROW — CBS

## Shake, rattle and roll for Syracuse defenders

Jeff Buskirk is the nickel back in the Syracuse secondary which means he is a protector of sorts. The position gives Buskirk a pretty good view of an offense that is looking for a good chunk of yardage, whether it be by the pass or by the run. Third-and-long can be interesting at times.

John Kunda

Buskirk, a quarterback in his high school days at Whitehall, does his job very well. He had a key interception against Rutgers last week. His coach at Syracuse, Dick MacPherson, says, "Jeff would be a starter for most schools in the country."

**Buskirk and his** Syracuse teammates will be at Penn State tomorrow night for what a lot of folks are billing as a grudge match. ESPN will be there, too, to bring the game into your living room.

Syracuse has a very experienced secondary, Buskirk, a senior, included. That experience will be matched against Penn State's freshman quarterback, Tony Sacca, who was rattled out of the pocket a number of times against Cincinnati.

Look for Syracuse to do the same.

"For a freshman, he [Sacca] looks pretty good," Buskirk said the other night in a telephone conversation. "He sees the field well. However, we are going to have to take advantage of his inexperience and try

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## Both sides having a hard time downplaying the revenge angle

By HERSCHEL NISSENSON
Of The Associated Press

Call it what you will — a holy war, a crusade — but it won't be just another football game when No. 1-ranked Miami visits No. 4 Notre Dame tomorrow.

Notre Dame, which has a long memory, will try again to avenge Miami's infamous 58-7 rout of the Irish in the 1985 finale, which also happened to be Gerry Faust's last game as head coach. The massacre somehow angered many of the same people who had been crying "Faust must go" for several years.

Notre Dame sought revenge last year but lost 24-0 to a Miami team that went on to win the national championship.

The 1985 and 1987 games were in Miami. This one's in South Bend, and to say the natives are restless is the understatement of the year.

It started even before the season when Miami coach Jimmy Johnson received a phone call from a Notre Dame student who said, "I'm not going to wait until October. I hate you now."

Both sides are trying to downplay the revenge angle, but it is hard to do.

One person close to the Notre Dame coaching staff, who asked to remain anonymous, says that beating Miami "is all the people on cam-

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FRIDAY
OCTOBER 14, 1988

THE MORNING CALL

SECTION C

# SPORTS

SPORTS SCORES 820-6550

CLASSIFIED

# Mules hold No. 1 team to 0-0 tie

## Elizabethtown 'lucky' to leave without a loss

By GARY R. BLOCKUS
Of The Morning Call

If yesterday's Division III collegiate soccer battle between Elizabethtown and Muhlenberg matched the No. 1 and No. 13 teams in the country, then the pollsters are going to have to re-evaluate their opinions.

Pulses quickened, the hearts pumped harder and the adrenaline reached near-fatal levels, but in the end, no one dropped dead and no lightning struck as host Muhlenberg thoroughly controlled the game but had to settle for a 0-0 tie with the top-ranked team in the country.

> "I think we're among the best. We're among the best in the country. We outplayed No. 1 for 90 minutes."
>
> **Jeff Tipping**
> Muhlenberg coach

"I think we're among the best," third-year Muhlenberg coach Jeff Tipping said of his team's stellar play. "We're among the best in the country. We outplayed No. 1 for 90 minutes."

Make that No. 13 outplayed No. 1 for 110 minutes (two 10 minute overtimes). The Mules were so dominating they held a deserved 23-7 edge in shots-on-goal and an 11-5 edge in corner kicks. The Mules were so dominating in the first half that the Blue Jays never even got a shot at goalie Mark Maehrer.

"They are an excellent side," said E'town coach Skip Roderick in praise of the Mules. "They won almost every 50-50 ball and countered off them. They beat us to every ball and we couldn't attack . . . we're lucky to leave with a tie."

The tie moved the Blue Jays to 12-0-2 on the season while Muhlenberg is 13-1-1. The Cardinal and Gray are unbeaten and uncored upon in 13 straight games since a season-opening loss to Penn State. The Blue Jays, led by goalie Jay Varrato, have shut out their last six opponents.

The Mules have no time to savor the tie, however. Tipping wasn't pleased that his legions missed out on some great opportunities, and the team travels to play No. 8 Messiah tomorrow.

"Nothing will happen with the rankings until the Messiah game," Tipping noted.

The only other factor keeping E'town in yesterday's game was the brilliant play of Varrato.

"He had a career-game today," Roderick said with a huge smile.

"Our back four kept us in it," Varrato said, shifting credit to his defensive corps, then added "I was really on today. I can't explain it. Some days you've got it, some days you don't."

Unfortunately for the Mules and their victory hopes, Varrato kept getting it — the ball — with stunning efficiency and the quickest hands since Mike Tyson knocked out Michael Spinks.

Maehrer was equally impressive for the Mules. Though called upon less frequently, he had to stand around in the bitter cold weather yesterday, then be physically and mentally prepared for an offense that approached him with zest.

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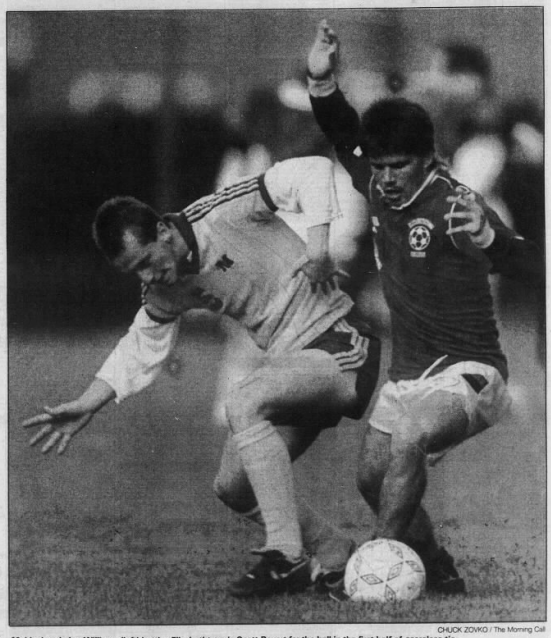

CHUCK ZOVKO / The Morning Call

Muhlenberg's Ian Williams (left) battles Elizabethtown's Scott Ravert for the ball in the first half of scoreless tie.

## Mets to retain Johnson; Cashen planning trade bait

By JIM DONAGHY
Of The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Instead of going to the World Series, New York Mets general manager Frank Cashen now must decide who will go elsewhere.

Cashen's first decision is whether to retain Davey Johnson as the Mets' manager.

The Associated Press learned yesterday that Johnson will be offered a new two-year contract. The Mets plan to make the offer soon and Johnson is expected to accept, a source close to the situation said.

Johnson has won 90 or more games in each of his five seasons with New York, the only manager in the history of the National League to do so. But he does not have a contract for 1989 and he doesn't have the NL pennant either.

Los Angeles beat the Mets 6-0 Wednesday night in Game 7 behind Orel Hershiser's five-hitter to win the NL flag.

The Mets had the best record in the league (100-60) and beat the Dodgers in 10 of 11 games during the regular season. They were supposed to go to the World Series for the second time in three years.

"I like to be on the field, and I expect to be on the field next year, hopefully in New York," Johnson

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## Battlelines are redefined for Golden State Series

By JEFF WILSON
Of The Associated Press

Baseball fever gripped California yesterday after a Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher performed Orel surgery on the New York Mets and earned the right to meet the Oakland Athletics in an all-California World Series.

North and south, fans were eager for tickets, souvenirs and victories in what is alternately referred to as The Golden State Series, The Interstate 5 Series and the California Series.

In a wave of regional jingoism, the North-South battlelines were redefined in a flurry of ticket-buying — newspaper ads listing prices up to $500 — and the wearing of colors — the Dodgers' blue, the Athletics' green and gold.

The two cities are already the state's most stressful, according to a Psychology Today study placing Oakland in ninth place and Los Angeles in 10th nationally. For some, the baseball rivalry will induce angina attacks.

Gertrude Stein's reflection on Oakland resurfaced in Southern California: "There is no there, there."

In Oakland, the stereotypical Los Angeles image emerged — a vacuous, laid-back, celebrity-laden populous choking in smog and giddy about convertibles, sunrans and tofu.

But Oakland and Los Angeles fans alike display a fickle streak.

The San Francisco Giants Dugout, a boutique off that cosmopolitan city's Union Square, was doing a brisk business catering to converted A's fans. Best sellers were T-shirts and caps, but fans generally overlooked a $15 man's tie that looks like an A's bat, even though "they're pretty cool," according to assistant manager Jolene Means.

Writer Richard Meltzer, a professional Los Angeles hater who lives is what he

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